(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission had recommended ex-gratia pension to the railway employees who had retired before March 31, 1985; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this recommendation has bean accepted;

(c) if so, the number of employees so benefited; and

(d) the number of employees yet to get such benefits and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The Fourth Central Pay Commission had not made any specific recommendation regarding ex-gratia pension to retired railwaymen alone. However, the Fourth Centrel Pay Commission made a general recommendation that the CPF (Contributory Provident Fund) beneficiaries who had retired prior to 31.3.1985 with a basic pay upto Rs.500/- p.m. may be given an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- p.m. in addition to tha benefit already received by them under the CPF Scheme. They had also recommended that the widows and dependent children of deceased employees who are getting pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m. may be given an ex-gratia payment at 50% of the above suggested amount. The recommendation relating to ex-gratia payment for living CPF retirees wes not accepted by the Government for the reasons that such payment only to those getting pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m.would be discriminatory and would be also have wider repercussions. The Government however, had accepted the recommendation for payment of ex-gratia of Rs. 150/- p.m. to the windows and dependent of the deceased CPF employees with the modification that it would apply to all those who retired or died while in service prior to 31.12.85 without any reference to the pay drawn. This general decision for CPF amployees also covered the railway employees governed by SRPF (State Railway Provident Fund Rules (Contributory).

(c) and (d). Do not arise as the recommendation relating to ex-gratia to living Contributory Provident Fund retirees has not been accepted by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Surgery Centres

*174 SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special surgery centres for promoting surgery in the country;

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Health' being a State subject, such centres are to be set up by State Governments.

[*English*]

Copyright to Works of Rabindra Nath Tagore

*175. SHRIMATIGEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

extent the applicability of Copyright Act to the works of Rabindranath Tagore for another twenty years; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The question of extending the term of copyright under the Copyright Act, 1957 is under the consideration of Government.

Aids Control and Prevention

*176. SHRI V. SREENIVASAN PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently formulated any schme for AIDS control and its prevention;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether the World Health Organisation and USAID also propose to extend financial assistance for AIDS control in India; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In September, 1991 the Government of India prepared a comprehensive project proposal for prevention and Control of AIDS in India. The proposal is under consideration of the World Bank. The outlay of the project is estimated to be Rs. 217.5 crores for the following component:

1. building surveillance and clinical management capacity:
2. promoting public awareness and community education;
3. improving blood safety and promoting rational use of blood;
4. improving facilities for diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and
5. strengthening programme management capacity.

It is expected that the World Bank assistance will be sanctioned in the first quarter of 1992.

(c) and (d). World Health Organisation will be providing technical support and a financial assistance of US $ 3.5 million for foreign studies, innovative programmes and training. The USAID has also informally indicated willingness to support the programme for AIDS prevention and control.

Nomination in Educational Institutions

*177. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government nominate students in certain educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have issued any uniform guidelines to the State in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;